Beedi Workers in Warangal District

*179. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether beedi workers in Warangal (Andhra Pradesh) are living in a pathetic condition;

(b) the number of workers in beedi factories in Warangal district;

(c) whether mininum wages, ESI and Provident Fund benefits are being extended to all of them;

(d) if so, the reasons for their living in a pathetic condition; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to ensure implementation of welfare measures for the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) There are 46,528 beedi workers incldng home-based workers in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh. They are being paid the mininum wages prescribed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As on date, a sum of Rs. 45.65, 44.85 and 44.15 for large, medium and sada (plain) beedis respectively is being paid to beedi workers as minimum wage for every 1000 beedis rolled.

There are 16,177 workers who have been enrolled as PF subscribers and 1242 workers in factories in and around Warangal Town, who have been enrolled in ESIC. These workers are deriving various benefits as per their entitlements.

Government have also formulated various welfare schemes for beedi workers and their dependants in the sphere of health, housing, education, recreation and social secruity under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976. These schemes are being implemented and regularly monitored through the office of Welfare Commissioner, Hyderabad. A static-cum-mobile dispensary has been opened in November' 97 in Warangal to provide basic medical care to the beedi workers in the area.

The above measures have helped in improving the social and economic conditions of beedi workers in the area.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

*180. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the target of steel production in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) during 1998-99 and how far it has been achieved;

(b) what has been the profit and loss for the year;

(c) whether there is a modernisation plan for this plant and if so, what is the estimated amount required for the purpose; and

(d) by when the modernisation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) The annual target of the Saleable steel production for Rourkela Steel Plant durign 1998-99 is 1.39 MT. The actual saleable steel production for the period April, 1998 to January, 1999 is 0.92 MT.

(b) Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has incurred a loss of Rs. 591 crores from April to December, 1998 during the current year.

(c) and (d) The Modernisation plan for Rourkela Steel Plant is under implementation. Most of the modernisdation packages have been completed except for one reheating furnace in Hot Strip Mill which is likely to be completed by March, 2000.

The anticipated cost of Modernisation is Rs. 5112 crores (Base: Fourth Quarter of 1997).